

**Education Outcomes Task Force**  
**The Commission on the Improvement of the Status of Children in Indiana**  
**Indiana Government Center South Building, Conference Room 12**  
**November 6, 2015**

Minutes

Those members present: Leslie Crist, Melaina Gant, Rebecca Kubacki, Terri Miller, Lenee Reedus-Carson, Paul Runyan, Susan Lockwood

Visitor: Shaina Cavazos

Susan Lockwood introduced the new task force members. Paul Runyan is a new member representing the Hoosier Academy, a virtual charter school. Terri Miller is also a new member, representing Collaborative Works, and Systems of Care. Susan mentioned that Tia Joseph, from the Indiana Department of Education, School Climate and Culture Coordinator, will also be joining the task force as a member.

The group approved the minutes from the September 11, 2015 meeting.

Susan Lockwood provided an update on the status of the OJJDP JSR Planning Grant and the OJJDP Juvenile Aftercare Planning Grant. Indiana did not receive the OJJDP JSR Implementation Grant, but will continue to receive guidance from the Council of State Governments to finesse the JSR Action Plan. Additionally, Indiana applied for the \$100,000 OJJDP Juvenile Aftercare Planning Grant and was awarded \$190,000. The IDOC/DYS project team for the OJJDP Juvenile Aftercare Planning Grant has just started the process of meeting with the technical assistance providers from the Council of State Governments. The Education Outcomes Task Force will serve as the advisory group for this project.

IDOC/DYS Leadership, along with other stakeholders, participated in a Fall Reentry Summit in September, 2015, and reduced the comprehensive JSR Action Plan to four goals specific to juvenile reentry, but also involving increased family engagement. The goals are as follows:

1. Assess the needs of the youth's parent/guardian and offer support through appropriate agency resources
2. Improve Facility Climate through Staff Retention to promote Family Engagement
3. Establish formal policy and practice that promotes "warm handoffs" of student and families to services in the community.
4. Utilize technology to improve child/family engagement.

Susan Lockwood stated that she had presented the goals to the regional reentry task forces from South Bend and Indianapolis, and had received the following reactions from those groups:

1. Perhaps there is a way that probation goals could be shared with IDOC/DYS when a youth becomes incarcerated so the IDOC/DYS staff can have the background from probation and know what the youth and family were working on prior to his adjudication to IDOC/DYS.

2. Probation protocols surrounding review of the case plan include an “in-person” meeting with parents, youth, and staff to review progress on goals. Perhaps IDOC/DYS can, minimally, utilize video-conferencing to involve families in case reviews with the youth and staff.
3. The assignment of youth to IDOC/DYS treatment counselors based on the region where they will return has support from the regional task forces.
4. The regional task forces support the consideration of re-implementing treatment team meetings at IDOC/DYS.
5. It would be helpful to provide the current Family Needs Checklist to the regional task forces so they can review it and offer suggestions for revisions and use it to identify community resources that can meet those needs.
6. How might IDOC/DYS and DCS share information regarding family needs that have already been assessed through DCS prior to incarceration? (Perhaps, when using the checklist, IDOC/DYS could get permission from the parent/guardian to communicate with DCS and share information about specific needs).
7. How might IDOC/DYS access relevant and appropriate staff development offered through other agencies organizations such as DMHA, DCS, Indiana Youth Institute, etc. (It was mentioned that it would be beneficial for JDAI Reintegration Specialists to train with DCS case workers in order to develop relationships).
8. It would be helpful to utilize existing resources through state and local Systems of Care to connect families to needed supports.

Susan Lockwood stated that the youth at the Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility are utilizing secure wireless tablets to access content and communicate with teachers and staff in the facility as part of a pilot project. This use of technology could be expanded to enhance family engagement. Rebecca Kubacki suggested that private foundations might be willing to provide funding for this technology. There will be follow-up on this suggestion.

Dr. Terri Miller provided the group with an introduction to Indiana’s System of Care. She stressed that the DMHA had received grant funding to assess and enhance the state’s System of Care, and that all 92 counties have System of Care coordinators. Systems of Care serves young people with mental health and related needs, and is family and youth driven. Dr. Miller will continue her presentation to the group at the January, 2016 meeting.

At a previous meeting, J.T. Coopman invited Susan Lockwood to present to the public school superintendents at their fall district meetings. Susan reported that she just completed the presentations to the superintendents, providing them with information about educating court-involved youth, the need to support their re-enrollment into school upon release, and some options that they have available to them for re-engaging youth to complete their education goals. She also told them about the Commission on the Improvement of the Status of Children in Indiana, the Education Outcomes Task Force, and the work that Judge Steven Nation is doing to help children and families within his jurisdiction to proactively address their needs prior to becoming systems-involved.

Susan stated that the superintendents were supportive and asked questions. Some stated that they often don't realize that youth are located at a juvenile facility because he/she wasn't attending school in the first place. Some expressed a concern about the necessary funding to provide services to youth in detention.

Susan Lockwood informed the group that she had met with Rep. Head (chair of the Substance Abuse Task Force) to determine how the two task forces could work together to achieve common goals. Additionally, Danielle McGrath contacted Susan to see if the Education Outcomes Task Force could develop curriculum for schools to use to educate youth about the dangers of substance abuse. Further conversation between Susan and Danielle led to the agreement that school corporations were already providing this type of substance abuse instruction to the students, and that it might be helpful to survey the school corporations regarding the level and degree of instruction that is currently in place. Susan also shared that the Education Outcomes Task Force had identified a need make substance abuse treatment more readily available to youth, either during school hours or soon after school hours, possibly on-site at the schools.

Susan Lockwood and Leslie Crist updated the group about Judge Steve Nation's work to replicate the Youth Assistance Program in the Bloomington area. This is being supported with funding from the Department of Workforce Development.

Susan Lockwood asked the group for input regarding next steps for the Education Outcomes Task Force. She stated that JauNae Hanger, from the Children's Policy and Law Initiative of Indiana, would provide the group with a summary of the outcomes of the recent School Discipline Summit hosted by CPLI. This update will be provided at the January, 2016 meeting. Also, Julie Smart, the chair of the School Discipline and Climate sub-committee, will provide an update at the January, 2016 meeting.

It was decided that, in addition to Dr. Miller's continuation of her Systems of Care presentation, Paul Runyan would present to the group about the role of virtual learning as a "choice" for students. Additionally, Susan will bring information to the group about language that could be submitted to the Commission regarding the need for "gap" funding to support entities who want to provide education to youth in transition but have no access to the ADM funding for the youth until he is counted at a later date.

Susan provided the group with the working draft of the Juvenile Records and Expungement guidance that Laurie Elliott and Leslie Dunn are developing.

Susan reminded the group of the agreed upon objectives for 2015-2016:

1. Increase School Stability and Decrease Absenteeism (Truancy).
2. Improve transitions for youth from DOC and DCS to other agencies and to the community, including reenrollment into school.

3. Increasing alternatives for schools regarding youth who would otherwise be suspended or expelled.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held in the Indiana Government Center, South Building, Conference Room 17, on Friday, January 8, 2016 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

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